

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## ISRAEL TO GET SAME AMOUNT OF AID NEXT FISCAL YEAR AS THIS YEAR UNDER REAGAN'S AUSTERITY BUDGET BUT EGYPT TO GET TWICE AS MUCH

By Joseph Palakoff

WASHINGTON, March 11 (JTA) -- The Reagan Administration's revised austerity budget submitted to Congress keeps Israel's total aid for the next fiscal year at the current year's level but military assistance to Egypt is almost doubled for the coming year.

While U.S. assistance to Israel and to voluntary agencies in the United States for the resettling of Soviet Jews is being slashed more than half, financial assistance to the United Nations for Palestine Arab refugees is to be increased and in the next fiscal year will be more than 13 times as much as oil-rich Saudi Arabia's contributions to those Arabs.

As had been previously made known to Congress, Israel will get \$1.4 billion in military assistance in the fiscal year beginning next Oct. 1 and \$785 million in economic assistance for a total of \$2.2 billion, the same as this year.

Egypt will get \$900 million in military aid plus \$100 million from the 1979 peace package, or a total of \$1 billion. During the current year, Egypt is getting \$550 million in military aid. Egypt's economic supporting assistance is to be \$750 million apart from the estimated approximately \$300 million in other economic programs, including Food for Peace. Thus Egypt's total package is almost equal to Israel's for the first time.

Jordan is to get \$50 million in military credits and \$20 million in economic assistance, and Lebanon \$5 million in economic aid and \$15 million in military support in the new fiscal year. There are no funds earmarked for Syria.

## Slash Aid To Israel For Resettling Soviet Jews

The new budget cuts aid to Israel for helping Soviet Jews from \$25 million in the Carter Administration's budget to \$12.5 million in the new fiscal year. The Reagan austerity budget chops it to the \$12.5 million figure for the current year -- a recession of half the allocated amount.

For support to voluntary agencies in America that help resettle Soviet and other Eastern European refugees the amount put for this year is \$9.6 million compared with the \$24 million allocated in the Carter budget. For the new fiscal year the amount is lowered to \$9 million. The State Department administers the resettlement funds for Israel and the Department of Health and Human Services handles them for the American agencies.

## Increased Aid to UNRWA

The State Department informed the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the new budget allocated \$67 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for the new fiscal year, or \$5 million more than in the current year. For the four years prior to the current year, the U.S. was giving \$52 million a year. Thus, both the

Carter and Reagan Administrations have increased the funding for the Palestinian Arabs. The U.S. thus is providing about one-fourth of the budget of \$269 million established by UNRWA.

However, oil-rich Saudi Arabia is providing only \$5 million this year; Kuwait slightly more than \$2 million, and Libya slightly more than \$1 million to this total fund. The Soviet Union, the Eastern European Communist countries, and the People's Republic of China that back the PLO give nothing to UNRWA.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHED FOR WEST BANK JEWISH SETTLEMENTS

By Gil Sedan

JERUSALEM, March 11 (JTA) -- Local government was established for two more Jewish settlements on the West Bank today in an effort to further entrench Israel's presence in that territory whose Arab inhabitants are supposed to be given autonomy within the framework of the Camp David accords. Town Councils were named in Maale Ephraim, north of Jericho, and in Ariel in the Samaria district, and similar bodies are expected to be established shortly in Kiryat Arba adjacent to Hebron and in settlements north of the Dead Sea. A town council was set up in Elkana in Samaria last week.

The drive to convert the settlements into self-governing townships, subject to Israeli laws, is headed by Agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon, chairman of the Ministerial Settlement Committee, and Matityahu Drobless, co-chairman of the World Zionist Organization's settlement department. Their aim is the rapid expansion of settlements and enlargement of the Jewish population in order to create "facts" that a Labor-led government could not very well reverse should it come into office after the June 30 Knesset elections.

The WZO settlement department announced today that it will spend 150 million Shekels on four new settlements on the West Bank and expand 11 others in accordance with government policy. According to Drobless, 400 new housing units will be built in the settlements to increase the Jewish population by 4000.

The Military Government says that only State-owned land will be utilized for these purposes. But its seizure of about 1000 acres near the settlement of Ariel has been challenged in the Supreme Court by Arab villagers. Similar challenges expected over other confiscated land may delay the expansion plans until after the elections.

## REAGAN SELECTS CUMMINGS TO BE NEXT U.S. AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRIA

By Joseph Palakoff

WASHINGTON, March 11 (JTA) -- Theodore Cummings of Beverly Hills, Calif., who is regarded as President Reagan's closest Jewish friend, has been selected by the President to be the next U.S. Ambassador to Austria, the country where he was born, a White House source informed the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today.

While the White House would not officially confirm the appointment of Cummings pending a formal announcement, it was understood that his nomination probably will be submitted to the Senate for confirmation late next week.

Cummings, 72, a financier and philanthropist in the Los Angeles area, has been close to Reagan for more than 30 years and supported him in his Gubernatorial and Presidential campaigns. He was an honorary co-chairman of the Coalition for Reagan-Bush, the Jewish organization that strongly backed Reagan's Presidential bid last year.

Cummings immigrated to the United States with his widowed mother in 1920, at the age of 11 and started life in America in New York City's then flourishing Yiddish theater. But he made his fortune in southern California where he became a grocer and expanded his business into a major food retail and supermarket chain which he sold in 1959. He is presently active in California as a civic leader and investor.

Cummings will be the third American Jew in succession to serve as Ambassador to Vienna. In 1977, President Carter appointed Milton Wolf of Cleveland to that post. Wolf resigned a year ago and was succeeded by Philip Kaiser of New York, who was then U.S. Ambassador to Hungary. Kaiser left Vienna last month.

#### An Extremely Important Post

The Vienna post is no sinecure. It is considered extremely important since Austria, following the post-World War II four power occupation by the U.S., Britain, France and the Soviet Union, has established itself as a buffer between East and West. It is the principal way-station where refugees from the East—notably Soviet Jews—are received and processed.

Austria's Chancellor, Bruno Kreisky, who is Jewish, is deeply involved in seeking a solution of the Israeli-Arab conflict which, in his view, requires mutual recognition between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization. He was the first Western head of government to invite PLO chief Yasir Arafat to his capital.

A ripple in U.S.-Austrian affairs was created a year ago by an arms sales development. An Austrian company, using the technology of an American firm, shipped rifles to a source not authorized under the American licensing agreement. According to the State Department, the rifles, destined for Pakistan, were diverted to the PLO. The license was suspended.

Cummings is the first Jewish Trustee of the University of Southern California where he fought conditions attached to a large Saudi Arabian grant to that institution. He is also founder of the Theodore Cummings Collection of Hebraica and Judaica at the University of California, Los Angeles. He has served as chairman of the Regional Leadership Conference for State of Israel Bonds.

#### AJCONGRESS 'CALL TO CONSCIENCE' URGES COMMITMENT TO JUSTICE

NEW YORK, March 11 (JTA) -- The American Jewish Congress, in a sweeping statement of principles and goals, has issued a "Call to Conscience" that rejects "both the politics of selfishness and the politics of despair" and urges a "fellowship of commitment and action" for a "world based on justice and the rule of law."

The statement, issued at the AJCongress' annual meeting here, welcomed the debate in which "Americans are engaged in a profound rethinking of many long held policies and the very purpose of government."

On the domestic scene, the statement affirmed that "government must continue to be an active force for enhancing social justice and human dig-

nity." On that score it decried the growth of "moral vigilantes whose political agenda consists of a dangerous imposition of government control, in the name of religion, over the classrooms, free speech and women's right of choice."

This kind of politics, the statement continued, "tears at the delicate fabric of accommodation and compromise that holds a pluralistic society intact. It debases our public life." It rejected the idea that "government is at the root of all our ills"; welcomed the new Administration's "commitment to oversight and fiscal responsibility"; and affirmed that "the great social legislation of the last half-century -- from Social Security to the Voting Rights Act -- has made America more just, more humane and more free."

#### View On Foreign Affairs

In foreign affairs, the AJCongress statement expressed "gratification" with the Administration's "announced intention to act decisively against terrorism, both domestic and international," but rejected "the suggestion that somehow the campaign against terrorism must be at the expense of the campaign for human rights."

The statement reaffirmed "our commitment to the survival and prosperity of Israel," and called on the Administration to "oppose and reject" efforts to undermine the Camp David peace process by the "so-called European initiative and by demands by the Arab world for additional offensive weapons that can only encourage the launching of the promised jihad against Israel."

Continuing the statement said: "In foreign affairs, as in our domestic life, simplistic solutions will not work. Our defenses must be strong enough to defend ourselves and our allies and to act as a deterrent to aggression by tyrants of any political stripe. But increased military strength, alone, is not sufficient to meet the challenges we face."

"Overpopulation, depletion of resources, starvation and nuclear proliferation -- the modern Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse -- remain America's enemies and the enemies of all who hope to build a more stable, freer world," the statement warned, and "these problems will not yield to a foreign policy based solely on resisting Soviet expansion."

#### 'PLAYING FOR TIME' TO BE TELEVIEWED IN GERMANY AND AUSTRIA

VIENNA, March 11 (JTA) -- "Playing for Time", an American television drama about women inmates of Auschwitz which won critical acclaim in the U.S. last year and stirred bitter controversy, will be shown on the West German and Austrian television networks next week, it was announced here.

The CBS-television play, by Arthur Miller, dealt with the experiences of Fania Fenelon, a half-Jewish French nightclub singer who was a member of the women's orchestra at the Auschwitz extermination camp. Ms. Fenelon charged that her autobiography was distorted in crucial passages. She also joined the many Jewish organizations and individuals who objected to the casting of British actress Vanessa Redgrave in the starring role of Fania because of Redgrave's public support of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

#### ARAB DELEGATES TO UN HUMAN RIGHTS PANEL ACCUSE EACH OTHER OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

By Tamar Levy

GENEVA, March 11 (JTA) -- The Syrian and Jordanian delegates to the United Nations Human Rights Commission each accused the other's country today of human rights violations in a fierce verbal battle of charges, counter-charges and invective which culminated with each country introducing a

resolution condemning the other. The Iraqi delegation joined the fray in support of Jordan. The Israeli delegation could be forgiven for watching with some amusement and gratification as the facade of Arab unity was reduced to rubble.

Apparently forgetting that Israel was the common foe, the intra-Arab warfare broke out when the Jordanian delegation circulated an official complaint that Syria was violating human rights of her citizens and that 500 Moslem brethren imprisoned in Palmira had been savagely massacred last June by the Syrian Battalion of Defense.

The Jordanians said they captured five terrorists, themselves on a mission to assassinate the Jordanian Prime Minister, who told them of the blood bath at Palmira. The Jordanian delegation asked the Human Rights Commission to send a representative to Syria to investigate the matter.

#### Syria Charges Jordan With Selling Out

The Syrian delegate retorted by accusing the Jordanians of selling out Palestinian interests for a handful of Dinars. He charged that Jordan was capitulating to pressure to join the Camp David process, a plot he said that was woven in Tel Aviv, Cairo and Washington. The Syrian also charged that Jordan violated the agreement by all Arab states never to ventilate their differences and internal fights to give comfort to Israel.

"I would rather be dead today than alive to witness the Jordanian attack on an Arab brother," the Syrian said. He was further mortified when his Iraqi brother took the podium to back the Jordanian charges and demand that Syria be condemned for the Palmira massacre. The Syrian then observed that Iraq, too, was notorious for human rights violations.

#### BILL TO ANNEX THE GOLAN HEIGHTS DEFEATED IN KNESSET BY 45-14 VOTE

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, March 11 (JTA) -- A bill to annex the Golan Heights was defeated by a vote of 45-14 with five abstentions in the Knesset today. But 56 MKs, mostly from opposition factions, absented themselves to avoid voting on a measure to which they objected but did not want to oppose openly. Shimon Peres, chairman of the Labor Party, was among the absentees.

The bill was introduced by the ultra-nationalist Tehiya faction. It was opposed by the government, not on principle but because, according to Justice Minister Moshe Nissim, it was ill-timed. Nissim accused the two-member Tehiya faction of weakening Israel's efforts to convince the world of its need to retain the Golan Heights by introducing a measure it knew was doomed to defeat.

Premier Menachem Begin and Deputy Premiers Yigael Yadin and Simcha Ehrlich were the first to oppose the bill in the roll call vote. Most coalition MKs followed their lead. But agriculture Minister Ariel Sharon flouted party discipline and cast a vote for it, as did Moshe Arens, chairman of the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Security Committee. Likud's Herut faction called a caucus meeting for later today to decide whether to take any action against Sharon.

The bill was submitted by Moshe Shamir of Tehiya who warned that it was the "last chance" to annex the Golan Heights before the present Knesset is dissolved to stand for election.

#### ARAB TERRORIST ATTEMPTS FOILED

TEL AVIV, March 11 (JTA) -- The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) foiled two Arab terrorist attempts to infiltrate into Israel recently, according to the UNIFIL spokesman. He would not confirm reports that the UNIFIL had been put in a state of alert because of the two clashes. The spokesman said that Nigerian troops had fired warning shots at five terrorists west of Yakhmur on Monday, and the terrorists retreated.

Shortly afterwards Dutch troops stopped another group of five terrorists by firing smoke grenades at them as they tried to infiltrate near Haref. The Dutch position came under heavy and light machine-gun fire about 45 minutes after the incident, the UNIFIL spokesman said.

#### SEARCH GOES ON FOR MISSING CREWMEN

NEW YORK, March 11 (JTA) -- The search for 13 crewmen missing from the Israeli bulk carrier Mezada was continued for a fourth day today. The Coast Guard said a decision to terminate the search last night was reconsidered after an empty life raft was spotted in the Atlantic east of Bermuda where the ship sank last Sunday morning. The search is being conducted by the Navy frigate USS Paul, assisted by Navy and Coast Guard planes. According to the Coast Guard in New York, a further extension of the search will depend on an evaluation of the results of today's operations.

#### TEL AVIV SITE FOR SIX-WEEK MULTIMEDIA ART, CULTURE FESTIVAL

TEL AVIV, March 11 (JTA) -- The Tel Aviv municipality is organizing a six-week multimedia art, culture and entertainment festival in the streets, theaters and cinemas this spring. "to show that Tel Aviv remains the country's entertainment center," according to Deputy Mayor Yitzhak Artzi.

Among the attractions will be the Warsaw Yiddish Theater, the Frankfurt Popular Theater, pop singers like Elton John and film music composer Lalo Schifrin. Artzi said the multimedia aspect of the festival will be in cinematech showings of Schifrin films while he appears with a local orchestra, and an evening devoted to Hebrew translations and discussions on German literature while the Frankfurt Theater appears in plays and readings.

"It won't cost the city a Shekel" Artzi said. "The small outlay will be covered by special donations to the Tel Aviv cultural fund and its development fund."

#### REAGAN URGED TO AID WALLENBERG

BONN, March 11 (JTA) -- The Stockholm-based Raoul Wallenberg Association has called on President Reagan to help free the man who, on the request of President Roosevelt, was sent to Budapest in 1944 to save Jews from the Nazi invaders. In a letter addressed to the White House this week, the Association said, referring to Wallenberg:

"He saved 100,000 and was captured by the Soviets in January 1945. Although the Soviets claimed Raoul died in 1947, he is still languishing in Gulag. According to recent information his state of health is alarming, so please use your power and make him a main issue in deals with the Soviet Union." IF Wallenberg is alive, he would be 68 years old.

JERUSALEM (JTA) -- A proposal to replace Israel's form of government with a presidential system similar to that of the U.S. failed to get even one vote in the Knesset.

**BEHIND THE HEADLINES****THE JEWS OF FRANCE**

By Ben Frank

(Part Three Of A Three-Part Series)

CANNES, March 11 (JTA) -- In a world of resorts, the French Riviera is queen. The portrait of this symbol of glamor includes beaches, perched villages and hamlets, sun terraces, promenades, art galleries, fireworks, flower shows, film and folk festivals, palm trees, gardens and red tiled roofs.

More than 35,000 Jews live and work in this vacation land, from Toulon to Menton. They reside in towns whose names head lists of world-famous tourist havens: Cannes, Antibes, St. Tropez and Nice.

Presently arriving into the south of France are Jews emigrating from Israel. While this emigration flow does not reach the proportion of Jews moving from Israel to the United States, the topic of yerida (emigration from Israel) is beginning to come up in discussions with French Jewish leaders as well as with those who work with the Fonds Social Juif Unifié (FSJU) which coordinates, supervises and plans social, educational and cultural activities of the French Jewish community.

The majority of those coming from Israel to France are those who retained French citizenship. In Nice, (and Lyon to the north) about 30 yordim families arrived last year, in each city, attracted in part by their relatives who help them get adjusted. If those coming from Israel possess French citizenship, they can manage. It is, however, the ones who do not have citizenship that undergo difficulties. With rising unemployment, it is difficult to obtain a work permit. Those who need help receive it from the Jewish community.

**Some Of The Jewish Newcomers**

Back in the 1950's and 1960's several hundred thousand North-African Jews poured into France. Among them were the Jews of Algeria, entitled to benefits given to all Frenchmen, including jobs and civil servant positions. Under the Cremieux decree they were French citizens.

Gabriel Bouaziz was one of those. Born in Oran, he fought with the Americans in North Africa in World War II. When Algeria became independent and the French departed, the Jews went with them. Bouaziz came to Cannes, a new immigrant. Several decades later, he has risen to the post of deputy mayor of Cannes and he also heads the Jewish community in the city.

Not all the leadership of French Jewry are newcomers. Members of the Rothschild family hold respected posts. Baron Guy de Rothschild is president of FSJU; Baron Alain de Rothschild is president of the Consistoire and heads the Representative Council of Jewish Organizations in France (CRIF); and Baron Elie de Rothschild is active in the French United Jewish Appeal.

A person who is in a position of leadership but whose family has been in Nice since the 17th Century is Fred Lattes. He, too, is a member of the City Council of Nice and serves with another Jewish official, M. Slama. Lattes is president of the Jewish community of the Riviera.

**Combatting Assimilation**

A visitor cannot but observe the new professionals, the men and women who staff the Jewish organizations. The civil servants are at the core of the battle to combat assimilation. In North

Africa, there was no place for Jews to go. Life was built around the tightly knit Jewish community, especially the synagogue and the Sephardim did not have the experience of building organizations as their European co-religionists.

For Jews, France is an open society; the universities, the professions, the government, the media, politics are wide open to them. They have achieved high positions in civic affairs, business and entertainment. The children of the immigrants from North Africa are by and large professionals today: doctors, dentists, lawyers, financial experts and scholars.

V. Altun directs the FSJU in Nice which has a Jewish population of about 25,000. Like his counterparts in Paris, he guides the operations which support community centers, for youths as well as senior citizens.

Also, in the same office on 15 rue d'Angleterre is the French version of the UJA, a rather new institution which was helped in establishing itself organizationally by the American UJA. Israelis who came to France as shlichim also aided French Jewry build institutions.

There is a new and younger leadership coming to the fore, too. For instance, in Nice, Dr. Lucien Samak is president of FSJU. He is young, dynamic and has a good grasp of political and social events.

**Rabbis Are A Major Force**

The rabbis of the Consistoire of France are a major force, for the Consistoire has the responsibility for all Jewish religious life in France. In Lyon, to the north, the Grand Rabbi of Lyon, Rabbi Richard Wertenschlag, is part of the great traditions of rabbis from Alsace-Lorraine. He is from Metz, which is not too far from Strasbourg. The latter is known as the "Jerusalem of France" -- the city which has provided the majority of the chief rabbis of France.

Rabbi Jean Kling is the Grand Rabbi of the Nice region. He is proud of the positive sketches of this community; the many who speak Hebrew; the active youth organizations such as B'nai Akiva, WIZO, B'nai B'rith lodges; lectures, seminars, parties, fund-raising and programs for Israel.

It is a community which is united, especially after the bombing of the Rue Copernic synagogue in Paris last October, though the shock still lingers. There is no panic. There are problems, but no fear about facing them. But this is no longer a new community; the newcomers have adjusted. The Ashkenazim and Sephardim have integrated. The institutions have been established. The foundation has been built. Phase Two now begins; the strengthening of the community. It is, after all the second largest Jewish community in the Western world, outside of Israel.

**ISRAELI REPORTER ELECTED UN CORRESPONDENTS ASSOCIATION CHIEF**

GENEVA, March 11 (JTA) -- Sari Rauber, the correspondent in Switzerland for Maariv, Kol Israel and the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, was yesterday elected president of the United Nations Correspondents Association here. Her election to the 134-member association marks the first time that a woman and a Jewish correspondent has been elected to this post. Rauber's election was seen as a tribute to her journalistic excellence and to her work in promoting Israel and the Jewish community.

Born in Tel Aviv, Rauber began her career in Jerusalem with the Agence France Presse. Subsequently she transferred to Geneva where she covered the Arab-Israeli peace talks. Her reports dealing with Red Cross activities in various areas of conflict around the world aided her in helping many families establish contacts with missing or captured members.